

143: A UNION



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# THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



CW 115

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

# THE WALKING DEAD™

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## Previously:

Alexandria is flooded with new arrivals as the fair finally begins. Among them is Maggie, who tells Rick that Carl ran away. He rides off with Andrea, Michonne and Dante to find the Whisperers. Not knowing that their leader, Alpha, is already roaming the fair, unnoticed.

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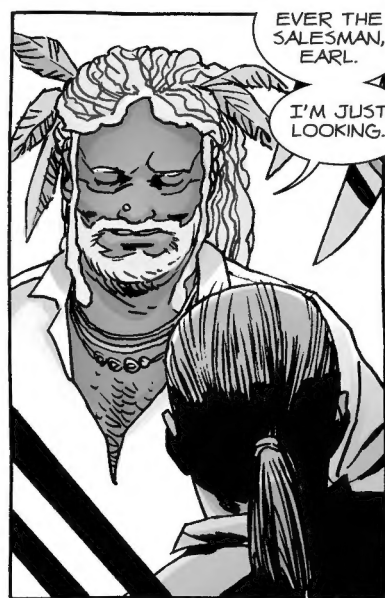
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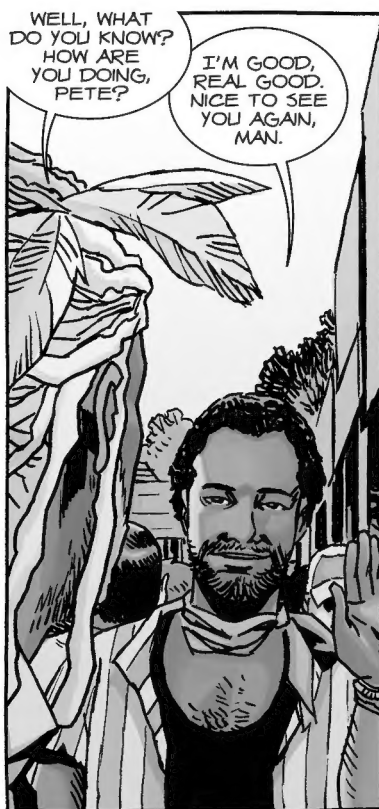
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WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? HOW ARE YOU DOING, PETE?

I'M GOOD, REAL GOOD. NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MAN.



SO, UH... WHO'S WATCHING THE BOAT WHILE YOU'RE HERE? I MEAN, I WOULDN'T WANT IT DRIFTING OUT TO SEA ON ITS OWN OR WHATEVER IT IS BOATS DO WHEN THEY'RE UNATTENDED.



COUPLE OF MY GUYS STAYED BEHIND, KEEPING THINGS LOCKED DOWN.

...

SHE CAME HERE WITH ME, EZEKIEL. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT.



MICHONNE? THAT'S NOT WHY I WAS...

...I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE SHE'S OKAY.

SHE'S NOT WOMAN ENOUGH TO SAY IT, SO GODDAMN IT, I WILL. SHE STILL LOVES YOU. SHE PROBABLY ALWAYS WILL.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL SHE'S DOING TO HERSELF STAYING ON MY BOAT. DON'T KNOW WHY SHE'S DOING IT.



WHOLE FUCKING THING DON'T MAKE A LICK OF SENSE TO ME. SHE WANTS TO BE WITH YOU... BUT WON'T LET HERSELF DO IT.

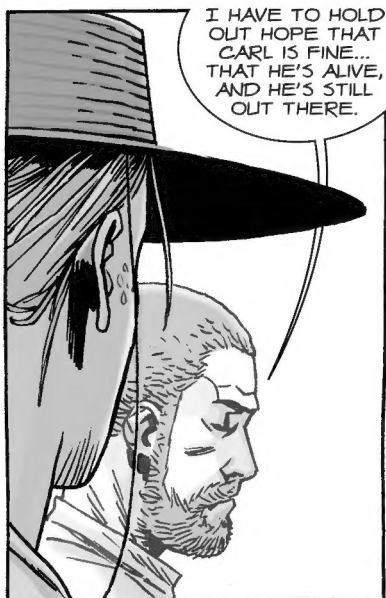
YOU ASKING ME IF YOU SHOULD GO AFTER HER? HELL YEAH.

DO SOMETHING TO KNOCK SOME DAMN SENSE INTO HER.





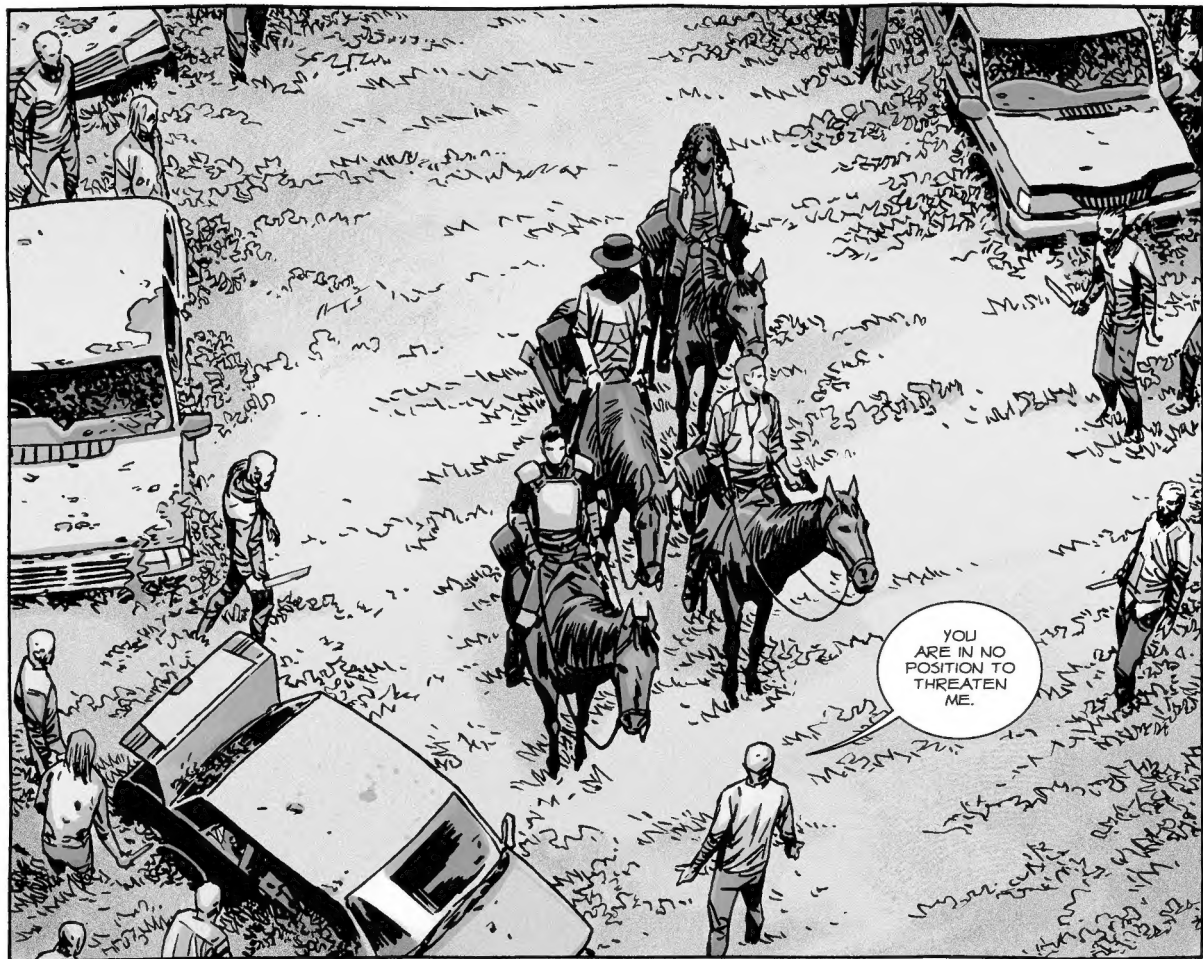
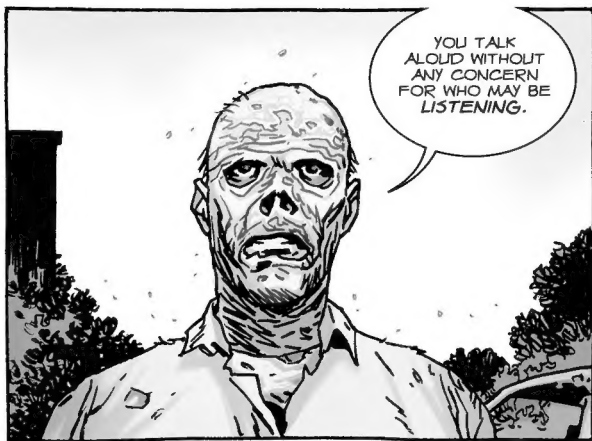






YOUR  
SON IS  
QUITE A  
HANDFUL.







WHEN RICK GETS BACK...  
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL  
HIM ABOUT WHAT WE DID  
WITH GREGORY...

...RIGHT?



I WASN'T AVOIDING THE ISSUE.  
I'M IN CHARGE OF THE HILLTOP  
AND CAN DO WHATEVER  
I WANT.

I'M SORRY  
I DIDN'T GET  
A FULL DEBRIEF  
OUT AFTER I  
TOLD HIM ABOUT  
CARL.

I'LL TELL  
HIM WHEN  
HE GETS  
BACK.



BUT ONLY AFTER WE FIND OUT  
WHAT HAPPENED WITH CARL. IF  
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO  
THAT BOY... I'M NOT  
GOING TO...

...I  
DON'T  
EVEN WANT  
TO THINK  
ABOUT  
THAT.



I HAVEN'T KNOWN CARL  
FOR AS LONG AS YOU  
HAVE... BUT I THINK PRETTY  
MUCH THE ONLY THING  
THAT'LL HAPPEN TO HIM  
WHILE HE'S OUT  
ON HIS OWN...

...IS GETTING  
STRONGER.



YEAH.

SOUNDS  
LIKE YOU'VE  
KNOWN  
HIM LONG  
ENOUGH.



WHERE DID SHE GO?!



CALM DOWN.  
STOP YELLING.

WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO YELL.



WHERE DID WHO GO?

YOU SHOULDN'T CARE SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING.



ALPHA--YOUR LEADER--HAS BEEN GONE ALL DAY. IS SHE HUNTING? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY WE CAME HERE.

I CARE WHAT SHE'S DOING IF IT CAN ENDANGER MY PEOPLE!

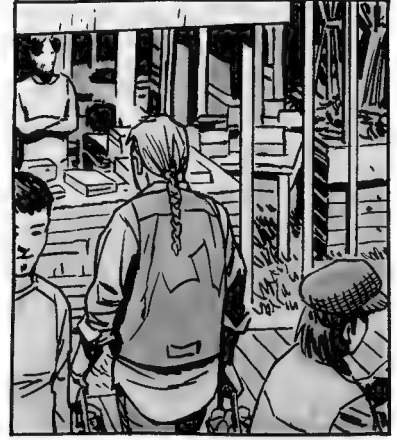


I CAUGHT THIS ONE ON THE ROAD.













NO. THEY'RE WEIRD, BUT THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO ME.



CARL, LISTEN TO ME. IF THEY GIVE US AN OPENING... WE HAVE TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT. THEY'RE HOLDING MICHONNE AND ANDREA ABOUT A MILE AWAY. WE HAVE TO GET TO THEM.



I CAN'T LEAVE. LYDIA WON'T GO AND I WON'T GO WITHOUT HER.



JUST LEAVE ME. I CAN MAKE A DIVERSION OR SOMETHING IF YOU NEED ME TO.

THESE PEOPLE ARE DANGEROUS. I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE.



I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO COME HERE. I HAVE TO DO THIS. I'M NOT LEAVING HER.





I'VE SEEN HOW YOU LOOK AT ME. I CAN SEE IT **RIGHT NOW.**

YOU LOOK AWAY, YOU'RE UNCOMFORTABLE. YOU WANT ME TO HIDE THE WAY I **REALLY** LOOK.

CARL, PLEASE. THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THIS.

**NOT HERE.**

I DON'T CARE IF THEY HEAR ME. I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY THINK.

I KNOW WHAT *SHE* THINKS.

SHE'S THE **ONLY ONE.** NOT YOU... NOT MOM... NO ONE ELSE WHO LOOKS AT ME.

WHO ACTUALLY LOOKS AT ME... LIKE I'M **NORMAL.** SHE'S NOT SCARED, OR UNCOMFORTABLE... OR ASHAMED.

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF YOU.

YOU TRIED TO PROTECT ME FROM ALL THIS, AND FOR THE MOST PART YOU DID A GOOD JOB, BETTER THAN PRETTY MUCH ANYONE COULD HAVE.

YOU'RE **RICK GRIMES.**

BUT THIS HAPPENED... I GOT HURT. I DIDN'T MAKE IT THROUGH **UNSCATHED,** AND I HAVE TO CARRY THIS WITH ME FOR THE **REST OF MY LIFE.** I KNOW HOW I LOOK. I KNOW IT'S NOT NORMAL AND IT'S NOT EASY TO LOOK AT.

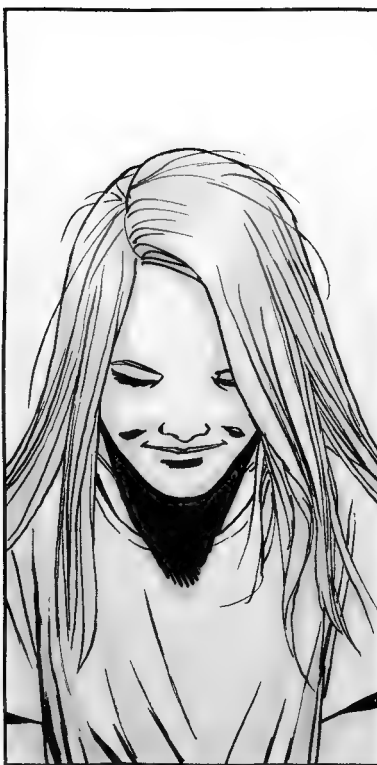
IT'S NOT **NORMAL** TO LOOK AT ME... WITHOUT FLINCHING.





BUT  
SOMEHOW...  
SHE DOES  
IT.

▽ SHE'S SPECIAL  
TO ME. I  
CARE ABOUT  
HER.



SO I'M NOT  
GOING TO LEAVE  
HER. I'VE FINALLY  
FOUND SOMEONE  
WHO CAN TRULY  
ACCEPT ME FOR  
**WHO I AM**,  
INSTEAD OF WHO  
I WAS, OR WHO  
MY FATHER  
IS...

...SO I'M  
GOING TO  
HOLD ONTO  
THAT.



...

OKAY.

I  
UNDERSTAND.



I'M  
SORRY.



IF YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS IN CHARGE HERE, I DON'T APPRECIATE BEING HELD CAPTIVE.



IF YOU MUST ADDRESS ME BY NAME, YOU CAN REFER TO ME AS ALPHA. HAD I A CHOICE, I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN YOU CAPTIVE.



OH, IS THIS DISTRACTING YOU?



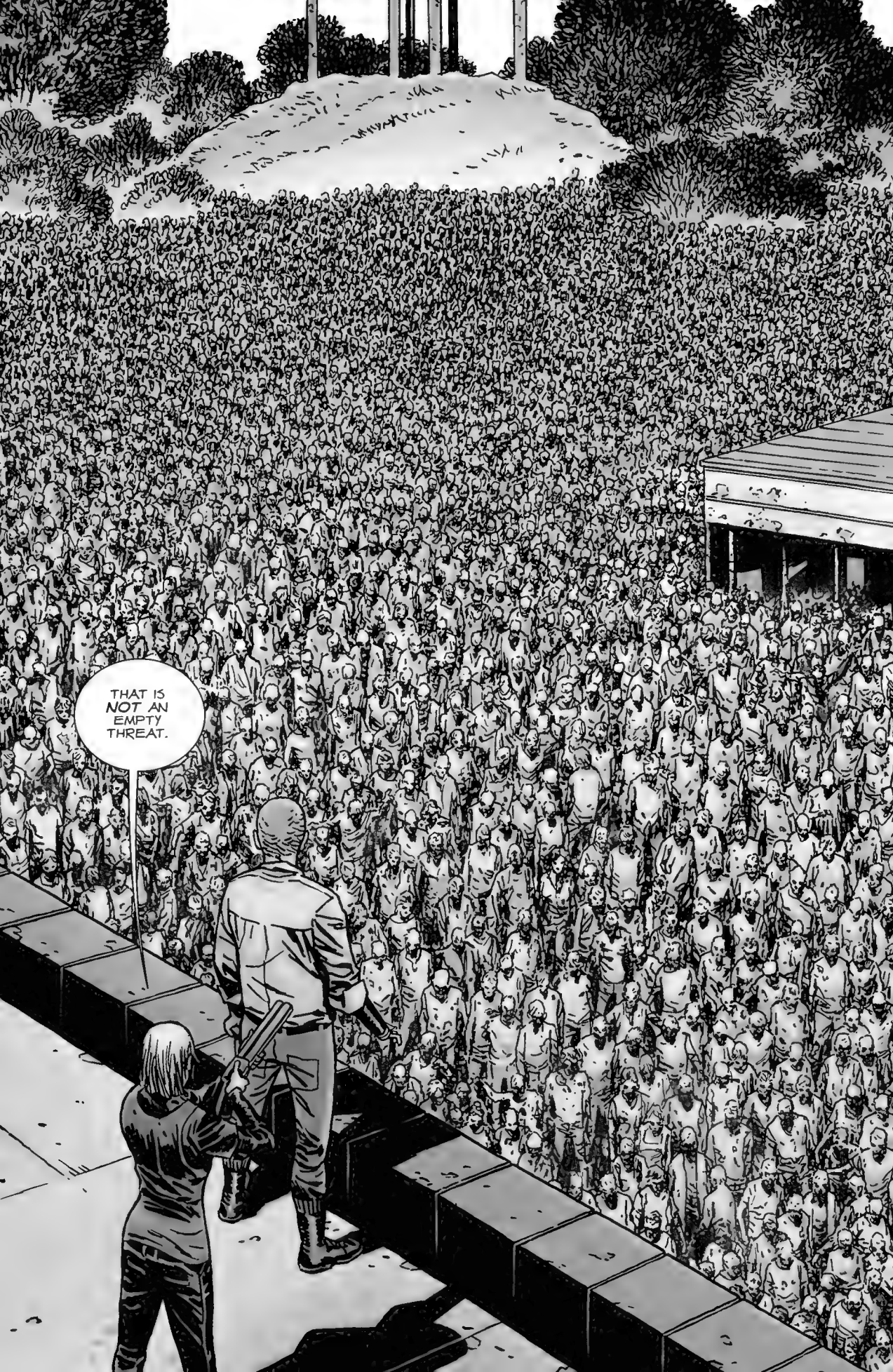












THAT IS  
NOT AN  
EMPTY  
THREAT.



# LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

**I'm not sure we even have a term for whatever's bigger than a herd. That is by far the largest concentration of walkers we've ever seen, right? We've seen Rick's crew practice their herding techniques, but this is massive, yeah? Yeesh...**

***This is a HORDE... and what does it mean for the future? Holy heck. Things are starting to get serious.***

***Now for some serious letters!***

---

Hello from Texas!

I just read issue 141 and man I'm so happy Gregory is dead! Seriously, that dude was a dick. But it makes me wonder, why did Maggie allow him to die by hanging? Did she get the idea from Rick when he wanted to hang Thomas at the prison? It just seems so wrong, did she feel he wasn't worth a bullet? And why in public? I don't think seeing a man being hung on a tree is high on anyone's priority, even if he is an asshole. And didn't she think of the risk of him turning right after he died? Is Maggie just so stressed out after what's happened with Sophia, the Whisperers, and Gregory that she's not thinking clearly? Anyway, keep up the great work!

From Henry

***She was trying to send a public message, the kind of message only a public hanging can send. She wanted people to see the terrible fate that awaits anyone who, y'know... tries to kill her. Maggie is a hard ass... we'll be seeing more of this side of her moving forward.***

---

Dear Mr. Kirkman and TWD crew,  
Finished reading #141 today and WOW! Finally we're free of Gregory! I know it's cold but I'm (not) sorry, he had to go. Wow Maggie works fast doesn't she! Just last issue she says Gregory has to die and BOOM! he's dead! I kind of wish we could've seen the trial leading up to Gregory kicking the bucket.

**I think when the judge is the same person you tried to murder, there's no need for a trial.**

***Yeah, it was pretty straightforward.***

I had a question about the rest of Magna's group. Where are they?? They showed up and POOF they're gone! C'mon don't show us a treat and then hide it!

Always a Dead-Head!  
Andrew Tiscareno  
El Paso, Texas

**They're around. We'll be seeing more of them.**

***Very soon.***

---

Hi Robert,

This is a random question but I was re-reading issue 92 and Jesus refers to Abraham as Mister Beefcake and I know "beefcake" is a gay slang type of word (which Abraham fits) did Jesus mean it that way? Was that the first hint that he was gay? I am convinced it is. I am gay myself and I love Jesus so much.

***I'm going to say that it was. Good catch.***

Also when are we going to learn Jesus' back story? He's such a cool and badass character and I want to learn more about him. Also have Jesus be with Aaron they both need some love.

Anthony

***I am reluctant to just shoehorn my two most prominent gay characters together, as I'd hate to fall into that stereotype of "gay men are attracted to all men." But... there might be a little something going on between these two in the future... so stay tuned.***

---

Hey Kirkman and Friends,  
I'm an avid home brewer and longtime fan of this book. I've been thinking, in the zombie apocalypse, a brewer would be incredibly valuable to the community. Beer is often safer to drink than water and it has incredible trade value. And a few town drunks could add new drama, especially if their drunken hijinks leads to a gate being left open or an accidental death and reanimation (drunk zombies?). The community has access to water and grain. Hops are practically a weed once established and yeast is everywhere. Time to introduce the brewer, the life of the party and the heart of a civilized community. AND I would be happy to advise you on the ins and outs of the process for the sake of realism.

Cheers!

Steve Ayres

Seattle

**Do you read our comics with a couple in you? We introduced Larry and Louie back in #131, who were crafting some spirits for the fair, and safe to say they dabble in beer as well. Which I'd imagine would be a very invaluable commodity. Though Alexandria's community is probably so productive because they don't drink. Man, we reintroduce booze and things are about to come crashing down soon, huh? Rebuilding society is harder than it looks.**

---

Dear Mr. Kirkman and Mr Adlard,  
Would you be willing to draw a map or a series of maps of DC and the surrounding areas? That would be so cool. Like, how much is "their territory"? I'd also love to see Negan's former bedroom.

PS. 141 issues in and I still miss Axel.

Chris in Cabot

**We talk about doing maps a lot in the office, for this book, for the early America of MANIFEST DESTINY, for the fantasyland in BIRTHRIGHT. We should probably stop talking and start doing.**

**Yes. We should. And Chris... I hear you, man. You follow me?**

---

Greetings Kirkman and friends!

First of all, want to give major props to you guys. I started reading The Walking Dead proper just last summer and it quickly became one of my favorite stories ever. So once again, thank you. Now for the ugly part: questions and predictions!

I am convinced the new "female villain" being teased in not Alpha as everyone believes, but

Magna. Outside threats have always been a theme in this story: the prison assault, No Way Out, All Out War, etc; characters having to defend what's theirs from those that have come to take all they have. Naturally, one would assume the same with the introduction of the Whisperers and subsequently their camp. But Alpha has shown nothing but civility to our heroes and she makes it clear all they need to do is leave the Whisperers alone and they'll respond in kind.

**Does this issue change your opinion any?**

*If not... stay tuned.*

No, I'm sensing an internal threat coming this time. Magna has taken the role of a young Rick while Rick is filling in the shoes of Douglas; even their appearances reflect this! So the roles have reversed. Rick took Alexandria from Douglas, can he hold it when Magna tries to do the same to him? Sure Magna seems compliant, but so did Rick and co. when they first arrived and we all know how THAT story played out. If only there was a fair or something coming up when everyone's guard is down. That'd be the perfect time to usurp the throne... Or maybe I'm wrong and I'll just have to enjoy the actual route the story takes, oh well!

Now for my question: what the motherfucking FUCK was Negan's job before the apocalypse happened? I've always been curious...

Thanks again for all your work guys!

Cheers,

Corey Kelly

*He was a used car salesman.*

**While your theory on Magna is interesting, you're not exactly in the right neighborhood. All the same, I'd keep an eye on Magna as a character... there's some cool stuff coming up.**

---

Negan seems to be trying to gain Rick's trust. But I just can't buy into Rick and Negan getting along, even to save Carl. Negan is an excellent villain, but is just that, a villain. So my question is, will Negan get closer or farther away from redemption for his actions as the story progressing and in doing so will he either become an ally or stay an enemy of Rick's?

Brant

**Does Negan even want redemption? I really like how much of a response Negan's latest appearance received. He was mentioned in probably 75% of the mail, which just goes to show you**



**motherfuckers really didn't want him to die after All Out War afterall.**

***Ha! Correct! Remember how mad you people were when he didn't die?! Where are all the complaints now?! Negan for life!***

***As for your questions... I can't answer a single one of them. How terrible would it be if I just told you what was going to happen in the letters column?***

---

Hello All,

This was possibly my favorite issue for seeing Rick go from advice giving father figure to Dwight to pants crappingly scared when he saw Negan in an open cage to metaphorically rubbing Olivia's face in the mess she almost made to weird pillow talk with Andrea.

Speaking of that scene immediately after he explains why he's keeping Negan alive (Btw Negan was pretty spot on about) I could almost here the scary movie orchestra hit. Or should it have been Price is right losing horns? Awesome job Mr. Adlard and Mr. Kirkman for making a book so good it has spawned a soundtrack in my head

***I'm thinking the Price is Right horns...***

Now for the part of the book that scared the crap out of me more than the hanged man should have; the cover for next issue. It is hands down the most peacefully idyllic, happy scene that has ever adorned the covers of TWD. Every cover for the last 141 issues has caused some degree of stress, This one wins because, dammit, it it's the zombie apocalypse and there cant be that many smiling faces without a price. Their all going to die!! (Their all going to laugh at you!!)

***In the past year we gave you an issue titled "Happiness" and there was people being happy in it! Sure, there was killing in it, but a whole lot of smiling, too. There's always a balance.***

***Things are changing!***

I'll be in the corner and whimpering quietly until 142 arrives.

Pete Vasquez  
Basking Ridge, NJ

***It might not be that bad...***

---

Abominable Kirkman,

Great issue, that 141. One of my absolute favorite issues ever! The writing was superb, the story progression fantastic, and the art as amazing as ever. Congrats to the entire team on a work of art! Alas, that said I have written my letter to you for a different reason, one that is hard to admit.

I have always hated Negan. After all, the moment we meet him he kills one of my favorite characters in the most brutal fashion possible. His snark and quirky profanity laced remarks were always a part of him that I despised, even when they were kinda funny. Then, something strange happened when I was reading issue 141. I realized I fucking love Negan.

***YES! We win! Carry on...***

This is probably an odd time to make such a discovery, since by now I would think most people have pretty well decided whether they love him or hate him. But myself, I was in denial of what I did like about him due to my overwhelming hatred of what he had done. He couldn't break through my perception of him until he started talking thanksgiving turkey ass. At that point, I couldn't deny it anymore. Negan is fucking hilarious, and he damn sure knows it. Rick puppet? Fucking classic. Love it. But I think what really helped turn around my opinion was his speech, and how right he was about Rick. He's right about himself being a tough son of a bitch, too. And who knows, one day he might build up enough trust with Rick that he actually comes to him for help with another issue (say, the whisperers having his son) and then he'll have the drop on ol' grampa Grimes. Once that day comes, I might go back to hating him, but until then I'm joining the Negan fan club. Although I do still hope Maggie bashes his brains in with Lucille some day!

***I think Negan has a better idea of who he is than almost anyone else in the book (except maybe Jesus). That's what allows him to be so decisive, he's sure of himself. Which is not to say that what he does is right at all.***

By the way, please oh please don't let anyone convince you to actually make Negan's dick fan club T-shirts for sale on the Skybound website. It would just be...disturbing.

Mark Jackson  
Pasadena, TX

***Agreed.***

***Aw, man... okay... fine.***

---

***Back in two weeks... right in time for San Diego Comic Con. Talk then! There'll be plenty to talk about!***

***-Sean Mackiewicz***

***Oh, issue 144 ships BEFORE San Diego? Good... yeah... that's good. That'll be a fun con. What? No... no reason. Nothing crazy happens in that issue. It's cool. See you all there!***

***-Robert Kirkman***



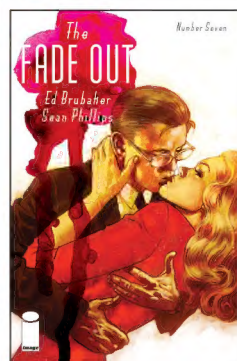
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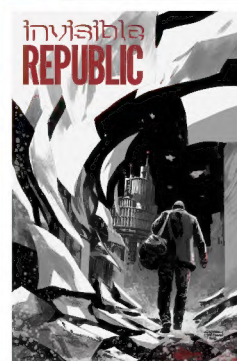
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